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*Annals of* The Brookline  
Whist Club, 1873-1907



BY AN OLD MEMBER



ANNALS  
OF THE  
Brookline Whist Club  
1873—1907

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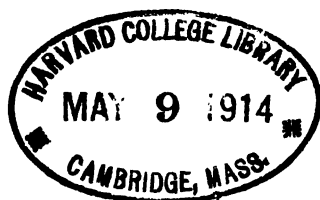
BY AN OLD MEMBER

*Edward Stansford*

1907



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*Dr. S. P. Green*  
*Boston*

**A**MONG the great historic events, the date of which has been irretrievably lost, is the establishment of the Brookline Whist Club. Nor does any evidence exist that will inform future generations in whose mind the idea originated, although there is a good conjecture that the prime mover was Mr. Charles D. Head, who was beloved not only by his fellow members, but by all who knew him. At the time these meager chronicles are set down, only two of the original members survive, and only one of them retains his membership.

It was probably in the autumn of 1873 that the first meeting of the club took place. A member of the family of Mr. Parsons remembers that soon after their return from Europe in September, 1873, there was a meeting at their house, and that the members of the club looked over the photographs they had brought home. On the other hand, the earliest mention of it in Mrs. Poor's diary is this, of November 28, 1874: "Henry went to Mr. Head's to a Whist Club." The form would naturally have been "the Whist Club" if it were not a new thing. The original members were, in alphabetical order:

John C. Abbott, for a long time a prominent insurance agent in Boston.

Edward Atkinson, president of the Manufacturers' Mutual Insurance Company; statistician, sociologist, economist.

William I. Bowditch, the leading conveyancer of Boston.

Charles D. Head, probably the originator of the club, a stock-broker.

Thomas Parsons, a prominent citizen of Brookline, whose chief occupation, beyond managing his own property, was the service of the town.

Edward S. Philbrick, an eminent civil engineer.

Henry V. Poor, railroad statistician, and founder of "Poor's Railroad Manual."

Moses Williams, the youngest member of the club, then only five years out of college, who had his reputation still to make, and has made it, as a lawyer and financier.

No record exists as to where the club first met, but it is certain that the system that now prevails was adopted at the beginning. There is no organization, and there are no officers. The club meets at the houses of the members on Saturday evenings, in the alphabetical order of their names, so far as is convenient. The first session of an annual season is usually held at the end of October or at the beginning of November, and each

member entertains the club three times in a season, which ends in May. The host of the evening signifies to his fellow members that his house is theirs for the time being by leaving his door so that there is no need of a latch-key or of a maid to open the door. Absolute good-fellowship prevails. During the twenty-five years the writer of these chronicles has been a member of the club he has never heard an intentionally severe word spoken by one member to another, nor observed any incident which ruffled the universal harmony and good-will.

Attendance is compulsory. That is to say, the most imperative reason only is allowed by any member to excuse his own absence. If a member finds himself unable to be present, it is his duty to give ample notice to the next host in order that, if necessary, his place may be filled by an invited guest.

The club has always consisted of eight, nine, or ten members, except in one or two short periods, when vacancies had reduced the number to seven. Although the club has probably completed thirty-three years of its existence, it has had only twenty-seven members in all.

Short whist is the game. Five points constitute a game. If more than eight members are present, the waiting member is taken in at the table at which a rubber is first finished, when the players "cut out," "the highest out." At the conclusion of the next

rubber the newcomer stays and the other three cut out; then one of the two who have been longest playing retires; and finally the fourth man retires *sua sponte*. If ten members are present they retire from and enter the game by twos. Each member keeps an account of the number of games he has won and lost. This custom was not introduced for some years after the club was formed. It seems to have been first adopted by Mr. Bowditch, who was accustomed to bring to the meetings a purse containing bright dimes and cents. At the conclusion of each game he laid on the table a silver piece for a win or a bronze piece for a loss, as the case might be. These coins he arranged in symmetrical geometric forms, and toward the end of an evening, as Mr. Bowditch was a good winner, they presented an imposing appearance. One by one other members either imitated Mr. Bowditch's practice or entered games won and lost on slips of paper, or on their shirt cuffs if they had no paper handy; and ultimately the system of recording the result in one of these ways became general. Sometimes one who had forgotten to bring his coins laid out on the table keys, knives or other articles, or borrowed dimes or coppers. Most of the members have provided themselves with a stock of foreign silver and base coins, collected by them in their foreign travels,—English, German, Japanese, Mexican, Hungarian,—and in some cases an assortment

of the coins of several foreign countries. A stranger happening in at a meeting of the club toward the end of an evening might draw a highly erroneous conclusion from the sight of so much silver on the table.

At the beginning of 1885 Mr. Bennett began keeping a record of games won and lost at each meeting of the club, and continued the record until his lamented death, for more than twenty years. He thus became, without any vote,—so far as is known no question was ever put to vote in the club,—a sort of secretary. It is the easiest thing in the world to make mistakes in keeping account of games won and lost, and every old member of the club will recall with amusement Mr. Bennett's puzzled look as, with pencil in hand, after he had added up the wins and losses, he would turn to the members grouped round him, and say, "Gentlemen, it doesn't balance." Remarkable as the fact may appear when we consider that the members have always been men experienced in keeping accounts, the total of wins was almost invariably larger than that of losses. Inasmuch as the balance must needs be forced, the task of Mr. Bennett in deducting a victory from the score of one or adding a defeat to that of another was not an easy one, but his decision was accepted with invariable good humor.

Inasmuch as no records exist of the early years of the club, such annals of that period as can be presented

must be drawn from the memory of those who have longest been members. It seems probable that quite early in the existence of the club the membership was increased to ten by the admission of Mr. Francis C. Richards and Mr. Charles O. Foster. Mr. Richards seems to have been the first to withdraw, and his place was filled by the admission of Mr. Stephen D. Bennett. It is impossible to state with any pretense to accuracy the order in which the following changes in membership took place. It can only be said that Mr. Abbott withdrew upon his removal to Boston; that some time between 1875 and 1880 Mr. Parsons and Mr. Foster resigned their membership; that for two years, or thereabouts, Mr. Moorfield Storey was a member; that Mr. Charles A. Henderson, then British consul at Boston, was a member for a short time, and frequently thereafter for many years a favorite guest of the club; and that the only gentlemen who, during this period, became permanent members were Mr. James M. Codman and Dr. Tappan E. Francis. About the year 1881 Mr. Charles Head withdrew, and as there were then but eight remaining members, two others were added: Mr. Eugene R. Knapp and the present writer.

Thus in the first eight years of the life of the club, prior to the admission of the two just mentioned, three of the original members and four others ceased to be members. Five of the original members remained,

and their ranks were unbroken again until 1888. From the beginning of 1881 to the present time, more than twenty-six years, only twelve new members have been admitted.

It has been said already that no vote of the club has ever been taken. How, then, are new members admitted? One way may be shown by narrating the circumstances in which this chronicler was taken in.

My old friend, Henry V. Poor, met me one day, and asked, in his abrupt but kindly way :

"Stanwood, do you play whist?"

I admitted that I did sometimes.

"Then come up to my house Saturday night."

I was not aware that there was any whist club, and did not know whether the players were to be men only, or ladies also. So I went, dressed in my best swallow-tail. At the close of the session Mr. Bennett, who was to be the next host, said that he should be pleased to see me at his house. I did not regard it as anything more than a complimentary invitation, but thanked him, and did not go. In the course of the next week I received a note from Mr. Codman, inviting me, and I went. Not liking the idea of receiving these attentions without reciprocating, I drew Mr. Poor aside and said that I should like to entertain the club if it would be agreeable to the members.

"Of course!" he ejaculated. "They expect it."



The next Saturday night the club met with me. It began to look as if "something was doing," especially when the next host-to-be said that he expected me. A week or two later Mr. Atkinson remarked to Mr. Knapp and myself, who had been drawn seductively into the charmed circle, that we were members of the club.

All accessions have been made in substantially the same way. When a vacancy has existed there has been a certain amount of canvassing, and some member has said that he would invite So-and-so, "and see how you like him." After a few evenings — by a sort of general agreement — he has been asked if he would like to join, and his reply settled the matter.

When I joined the club in the winter of 1881-82 there were still five of the original members: Messrs. Atkinson, Bowditch, Philbrick, Poor and Williams, and the others were Dr. Francis, Messrs. Bennett, Codman, Knapp and myself. In the early years of the club there was no supper. But the daughter of one of the original members writes that one evening Mr. Philbrick appeared with a basket of pears. That broke the rule, and soon afterward a cracker and cheese entertainment at nine o'clock was established as a usual interruption of the play. At the time I joined, by a gradual change, which is frequent in such cases, the modest repast had become a comparatively elaborate entertainment of two or three or more courses, and a modest glass of sherry was pro-

vided in most of the houses. One of the members, whose family frowned upon the use of any cup that inebriates, did not conform to the sherry innovation. Some years afterward beer appeared on his table, but never anything stronger. Five of the members were smokers and five were not. The smokers were in the habit of providing cigars after the supper, but not before. The non-smokers did not provide cigars. The privilege of each member to act his own pleasure in this respect was absolutely respected, and no even confidential criticisms were exchanged, sorely as some of the smoking members missed their cigar after eating. Later the non-smokers adopted the practice of providing cigars, and ultimately it became the universal rule that cigars were at hand at the beginning of the evening and all through the session. The most glorious triumph of the smokers was when Mr. Edward Atkinson succumbed late in life to the attractions of tobacco, and became an inveterate user of the weed.

About the year 1890 an innovation was introduced which was followed by some members of the club, but not by all. The members were invited to dinner at half past six o'clock, and after dinner whist was in order until the usual hour of breaking up, eleven o'clock. This was the usual practice at some of the houses for two or three years, and was then gradually discontinued.

The club was the witness of the beginning and of the development of Mr. Atkinson's Aladdin Oven. Everything that was cooked for the club, from brown bread and apple sauce to a saddle of venison and roast pig, came out of that universal cooker. Many an experiment did he spring upon us, not only in the shape of cooked food, but of New Jersey champagne and other drinkables. No one will forget his fourteen-cent dinner with six or eight courses, of which the principal dish, which was to be the filler of the occasion, was "glorified hash." The Aladdin Oven was at first based on the principle of a tightly closed box, in which food was cooked very slowly a long time by means of a small kerosene lamp. Ultimately the idea of slow cooking was abandoned, and great heat was produced by a "jumbo" lamp.

After 1882 no change in the membership of the club took place until November, 1888, when Mr. Knapp resigned. His place was filled by Mr. Thomas H. Clay,—a grandson of Henry Clay,—who was then an assistant editor of *The Youth's Companion*. He continued as a member only during the then current season, and resigned before the resumption of sittings in the autumn of 1889. Mr. Albert L. Lincoln, Jr., a member of the bar, and for several years the chairman of the board of selectmen of Brookline, then became a member, and still retains his membership.

The first death of an active member of the club occurred on February 13, 1889, when Mr. Edward S. Philbrick expired suddenly in a car of the Boston and Albany Railroad, returning to his home from the city. Mr. Philbrick was one of the most highly esteemed members of the club—admired for his professional ability, honored for his sturdy uprightness, and beloved for his kindness and geniality. The members of the club attended his funeral. There was no meeting of the club on the following Saturday evening, but one was held on the 23d. It may be well here to mention the fact that although on every occasion of the death of a member the meeting on the next Saturday evening has been omitted, the members are not accustomed to withdraw for a season after a death in their immediate families. They take the view that in a certain sense they constitute a family, and that attendance upon the whist club is not going into society. It has happened in the last twenty years that several members of the club have suffered great personal bereavements, in the loss of son, brother or father, but none of them have long absented themselves from the club on that account.

After the death of Mr. Philbrick the membership of the club remained at nine for more than a year. Mr. Arthur Mills met with the club as a member on February 27, 1892. Mr. Mills was then the general traffic

manager of the Boston and Albany Railroad. His last meeting was one held at his own house on March 22, 1899, when, to the regret of every member of the club as well as to his own regret, he was forced to give up his membership upon his election as vice-president and general manager of the Merchants' Despatch Transportation Company, with headquarters at New York. He occasionally met with the club afterward, as a substitute, for his family remained in Brookline, and he was accustomed to pass his Sundays here until his death on New-year's day, 1907.

During the season of 1893-94 Dr. Francis met with a serious accident, which prevented his attendance at the club meetings until the beginning of the next season. The doctor always did like fast and frisky horses, and when he was driving one of them early in March, 1894, he was thrown from his sleigh and dragged along the ground, and suffered a severe injury of the hip, from which he has never fully recovered. It would be hard to say whether he or his fellow members regretted more his enforced absence. His dry wit and quaint expressions enlivened every company of which he formed a part, and as a whist-player—why, there was never one who was more given to strategy than he. How the hearts of his opponents would sink when they saw him snap a deuce on the table, second hand, with an air which said, "See what a deep game I am playing!"

Mr. William I. Bowditch, an original member, played his last game with the club on December 17, 1898. No member was more regular in attendance than he, and none enjoyed his whist more keenly. But growing infirmities prevented his full participation in the social features of the club, and he withdrew, to the unanimous regret of his fellow members. Mr. Bowditch contributed much to the gaiety of our Saturday evenings. It was a joy even to his opponents, when he was partnered with Mr. Poor, to see how—as if by instinct—they scented a chance for a double ruff, and to hear the jolly laugh and chuckle as he rubbed his hands after a successful hand. And how comically melancholy he was as he repeated, when one of his important tricks was trumped:

"Sad was the hour  
In Evelyn's bower."

He was, so far as I know, the inventor of the Latin "*Sumus ex!*"—an exclamation which he uttered with exultation when he had won a game unexpectedly. The regret which the members felt at his withdrawal from them is tempered by the knowledge that he still lives in a hale old age.

A few months after the withdrawal of Mr. Bowditch Mr. Frank E. Sweetser became a member. He played with the club for the first time on March 4, 1899, but resigned at the end of the season.

The next member was Mr. Stephen G. Train, who entered it at the beginning of the next season, November 4, 1899, and retained his membership three years. His last meeting as a regular member was that of May 10, 1902, but he has many times since that day joined the club as an invited guest when the host of the evening needed an additional player to make up a quorum. Mr. Train is a rare hand at making concoctions that tickle the palate, and no one who has ever partaken of his well-doctored Stilton cheese will forget it.

At this time the membership of the club was reduced to nine, and necessary absences sometimes made it difficult at the last moment to muster a quorum. For this reason — oh, not for this reason only, no, indeed — Mr. Desmond Fitzgerald was invited to become a member. He accepted the invitation, took a hand with us on December 16, 1899, and still remains with us. He is an eminent civil engineer, also an enraged amateur photographer, also an accomplished spinner of yarns. He outdid himself when he told how his companion on a hunting trip, with a shingle-nail in the end of a stick, speared a bear that had been killed and had sunk under water, and brought the bear to the surface. Mr. Bennett's cuckoo-clock, which on two occasions expressed its disbelief in Desmond's yarns, was not present to reprove him.

The next season — 1900-01 — was a memorable one.

Owing to an illness of Dr. Francis he was unable to meet with the club from October until the following March. In fact, it was feared at the time that he had withdrawn permanently from the club. But on March 16, 1901, he resumed, and during the whole of the three following seasons, 1901-2, 1902-3 and 1903-4, he was absent but twice. But soon after the beginning of the sessions in the autumn of 1904 he again fell ill, and played his last game with the club on December 17, 1904.

In addition to the absence of the doctor in 1900-01, we were deprived of the genial companionship of Albert Lincoln, who was away the whole season, with his family, on a Mediterranean trip. There were thus but eight members who could be present at any time, and as some of them were required at times to be away, it became quite difficult to muster a quorum. Not once, from October 20, 1900, until March 16, 1901, when Dr. Francis resumed, did the club meet without at least one invited guest to make the second table, and on two evenings there were four members and four guests. There were in all forty-one guests at the twenty-one meetings. At times it seemed as if the club were likely to be abandoned. No one wished it, but all feared it. Never before nor since were there so many and so prolonged absences of members. The consolidated score for that season shows that Mr. Train



was the only member who was present at every meeting. The record of the number of absences of the other members is as follows: Mr. Stanwood, one; Mr. Atkinson and Mr. FitzGerald, two each; Mr. Bennett, six; Mr. Poor and Mr. Codman, seven each; Mr. Williams, eleven; Dr. Francis, twenty; Mr. Lincoln, twenty-eight. The aggregate is eighty-four absences, or exactly three to a meeting; and as there were only ten members, the average attendance was but seven.

At the beginning of the season of 1901-02 our dear friend, Mr. Poor, virtually withdrew from the club, for although he occasionally met with us by invitation,—three times in 1901-02, six times in 1902-03, seven times in 1903-04, and once in 1904-05,—he did not count himself as a member. Mr. Poor was born December 8, 1812, and was therefore within four weeks of attaining his ninety-second year when he met with us for the last time on November 12, 1904. He died January 4, 1905, less than two months later. He was one of the sturdiest sons of Oxford County, Maine, and one of the kindest, truest-hearted gentlemen who ever lived. His bluff, blunt way of speaking his mind was really one of his most engaging traits. I never knew any one to take offense at his most plain-spoken outburst. His hatred was reserved for shams and frauds, particularly for some of the fathers of the republic whom he regarded as having honor that should have been dishonor. He

held the strongest opinions in politics and religion, and never refrained from uttering them, but he never lost or offended a friend by so doing. His physical powers were wonderful for a man of his age. It must have been on November 21, 1903, when he had passed his ninetieth year, that he tramped alone in the early evening to Dr. Francis's house, to join in the whist, and returned to his home alone—a distance of a mile at least—when supper was served. At his last meeting with us, only two months before his death, he walked to Mr. FitzGerald's—almost as far—and back again. He played a good old-fashioned game of whist—no American leads, no trump signals or echoes, nothing of that sort. But he remembered all the cards, divined where the strength and weakness lay, and by a kind of instinct played his hand so that he could hold his own against a little more science and a little less skill in managing a hand.

The effective membership of the club was reduced to seven in the season of 1902-03 by the absence of Mr. FitzGerald, which continued through two full years, first occasioned by illness and the need of a long rest, and later by occupation as an expert engineer for the San Francisco water-works, and in the employ of the national government in connection with the water-supply of Manila. Other absences were few, and we never lacked a quorum. By a sort of common consent

we all pitched upon Billy Cutler as an eighth man, and he met with us ten times during that season. At the beginning of the season of 1903-04 he became a regular member. One of us who was a schoolboy with him says he was always as good a fellow as he is now, and it is unthinkable that he should not have been. He was responsible for introducing a certain addition to the pleasures of the supper-table which has become a regular feature.

The changes during the next two years were sad ones for the club. We began the season of 1904-05 with nine members. At the first meeting eight of the nine and Mr. Poor met at Mr. FitzGerald's house, for Desmond had returned in full health and more prolific of stories and yarns than ever. The page of Mr. Bennett's record for January 7, 1905, is blank, and two black lines at the top and bottom are his way of noting the fact of Mr. Poor's death. We also suffered a serious loss by the withdrawal of Dr. Francis, whose last meeting with us was on the 10th of the previous December. The membership was restored to nine by the choice of Mr. Homer Albers, who had played with the club several times during the previous season. His first meeting as a regular member was on December 31, 1904. Homer is a whist sharp. Although a youngster among veterans, he stood second on the score for that season, and had the temerity to win the prize counters in his second

year, and second place in the third. Such precocity sooner or later receives the chastisement it deserves.

From the death of Mr. Philbrick in 1889 until December 11, 1905, the club lost no active member by death. But on that day Mr. Edward Atkinson died suddenly in his carriage as he was driving in to Boston to business. Mr. Atkinson was always one of the leading spirits of the club, and unless called away from home by a public engagement was most regular in his attendance. I find that in the last ten years of his life he was present at two hundred and fifty-eight and absent from only thirty meetings, or an average of only three a year. This is not the place to speak of Mr. Atkinson as a public man, as an eminent statistician and sociologist, as one of the most suggestive philosophers our country has produced. We remember him as the genial host, the charming companion in our hours of relaxation, the personal friend full of acts of kindness.

It was but a few weeks later, on March 9, 1906, that the members of the club were again afflicted by the death, almost as sudden as that of Mr. Atkinson, of Mr. Bennett. Stephen D. Bennett was regarded with the deepest affection by every member. No one did more than he to hold the club together when resignations and absences threatened to bring its existence to a close. His own warm and loving nature, his absolute

sincerity, his modesty, his geniality, and his equable temperament caused him to be beloved by all, and no loss which the club could have suffered would have been felt more deeply than that which we suffered when he was taken away. For all the years from the beginning of 1885 until his last meeting with us, February 24, 1906, he kept the record of wins and losses by members, in his clear and neat handwriting, and at the close of each season made up a summary of the result, with the fraction of games won by each member, and sent a copy to each one. This duty, voluntarily undertaken and performed with scrupulous and unvarying fidelity, was assumed, and has since been discharged, by Mr. William S. Cutler.

The vacancy occasioned by the death of Mr. Atkinson was filled by Mr. Edward M. Farnsworth, who, after two or three evenings as an invited guest, became a full member January 27, 1906. Mr. Frederic B. Cutler, after a short novitiate, became a member on April 21, 1906, in succession to Mr. Bennett. In both these cases, as well as in the case of Mr. Albers, the club chose to recruit its membership by admitting comparatively young men, in the hope of perpetuating an institution which is becoming venerable. Indeed, the club has long been popularly known as "the old men's club," and perhaps, in spite of the inclusion of the youngsters just mentioned, it deserves the name. Of the nine

present members six are grandfathers, and one other is old enough to be one. May the newcomers live so long and maintain the club so long that it will be necessary for them to seek after youthful members to remove the reproach of being an old men's club.

The membership at the present time, May, 1907, is as follows, in the order not of age but of seniority in the club :

Moses Williams.

James M. Codman.

Edward Stanwood.

Albert L. Lincoln.

Desmond FitzGerald.

William S. Cutler.

Homer Albers.

Edward M. Farnsworth.

Frederic B. Cutler.

# THE FULL LIST OF MEMBERS.

	JOINED.	WITHDREW.	DIED.
John C. Abbott.	Original.	Not known.	Dec. 11, 1893.
Edward Atkinson.	Original.	Dec., 1905.	Dec. 11, 1905.
William I. Bowditch.	Original.	Dec., 1898.	
Charles D. Head.	Original.	Not known.	Oct. 23, 1889.
Thomas Parsons.	Original.	Not known.	Oct. 22, 1886.
Edward S. Philbrick.	Original.	Feb., 1889.	Feb. 13, 1889.
Henry V. Poor.	Original.	May, 1901.	Jan. 4, 1905.
Moses Williams.	Original.		
Francis C. Richards.	Not known.	Not known.	Mar. 20, 1887.
Charles O. Foster.	Not known.	Not known.	Nov. 7, 1892.
Moorfield Storey.	Not known.	Not known.	
Charles A. Henderson.	Not known.	Not known.	
Tappan E. Francis.	Not known.	Dec., 1904.	
Stephen D. Bennett.	Not known.	Mar., 1906.	Mar. 9, 1906.
James M. Codman.	Not known.		
Edward Stanwood.	Jan., 1881.		
Eugene R. Knapp.	Feb., 1881.	Nov., 1888.	July 3, 1905.
Thomas H. Clay.	Dec., 1888.	May, 1889.	
Albert L. Lincoln.	Oct., 1889.		
Arthur Mills.	Feb., 1892.	Mar., 1898.	Jan. 1, 1907.
Frank E. Sweetser.	Mar., 1899.	May, 1899.	Dec. 9, 1904.
Stephen G. Train.	Nov., 1899.	May, 1902.	
Desmond FitzGerald.	Dec., 1899.		
William S. Cutler.	Oct., 1903.		
Homer Albers.	Dec., 1904.		
Edward M. Farnsworth.	Jan., 1906.		
Frederic B. Cutler.	Apr., 1906.		

Those who are familiar with the public affairs of Brookline will not fail to observe that many of those in the list of present and past members have had an active share in the town government. Five of them have served as chairman of the board of selectmen: Messrs. Parsons, Head, Bowditch, Williams and Lincoln. Six have been trustees of the public library; two are members of the park commission. Town affairs have been frequently discussed most profitably at the supper-table of the club. Politically, the members have long been divided. At the beginning of 1884 they were ten Republicans, but when the presidential election took place in November they were seven Mugwumps to three Republicans. Never since that time have they been united politically, for even in 1896 one member cast his vote for Palmer and Buckner. Controversy on national politics has never been barred from discussion at the supper-table, but has always been conducted in a good-humored and tolerant spirit.

#### INVITED GUESTS.

Following is a list of some of the gentlemen who have been invited with more or less frequency to the club to make up a quorum. In addition to these, it



should be mentioned, past members have frequently been invited; and others who subsequently became members:

Thacher Loring.	S. N. D. North.
Charles A. Williams.	James M. Codman, Jr.
Horace W. Fuller.	Amasa Clarke.
Osborn Howes.	Walter E. Andrews.
Frederick H. Hedge.	Edward W. Atkinson.
James H. Bowditch.	Nathaniel A. Francis.
Dr. George H. Francis.	Dr. Carleton S. Francis.
Dr. Benjamin S. Blanchard.	Henry S. Macomber.
Charles K. Bolton.	Henry D. Bennett.

### THE CHAMPION COUNTERS.

In 1891 Mr. Codman brought from England a handsome set of whist counters, which he gave to the club to be held for a year by that member who should have the largest percentage of wins of the number of games played by him during the preceding season. Mr. Codman, who loves his Latin, and has produced an admirable versified translation of the "*Dies Irae*," closed his deed of gift with Lord Nelson's motto,

*"Palmarum qui meruit ferat."* It seems to be Mr. Lincoln *qui meruit*, for here is the list of winners :

1891-92.	Mr. Lincoln.
1892-93.	Mr. Codman.
1893-94.	Mr. Stanwood.
1894-95.	Mr. Codman.
1895-96.	Mr. Lincoln.
1896-97.	Mr. Stanwood.
1897-98.	Mr. Poor.
1898-99.	Dr. Francis.
1899-1900.	Mr. Stanwood.
1900-01.	Mr. Poor.
1901-02.	Mr. Lincoln.
1902-03.	Mr. Lincoln.
1903-04.	Mr. Lincoln.
1904-05.	Mr. Lincoln.
1905-06.	Mr. Albers.
1906-07.	Mr. W. S. Cutler.

It may be interesting to see a list of the three highest percentages in each year since a record was kept, inasmuch as in this list appears almost every member of the club who retained membership during a comparatively long period. The record began in January, 1886; the record for the other years is for a full season :

YEAR.	RANK.	NAME.	PERCENTAGE.
1886.	1	Mr. Poor.	51.7.
	2	Mr. Bennett.	51.1.
	3	Dr. Francis.	51.0.
1887.	1	Mr. Knapp.	58.4.
	2	Mr. Codman.	53.2.
	3	Dr. Francis.	51.6.
1888.	1	Mr. Poor.	58.2.
	2	Mr. Bowditch.	51.2.
	3	Mr. Stanwood.	50.8.
1889.	1	Mr. Williams.	53.9.
	2	Mr. Codman.	53.7.
	3	Mr. Bowditch.	52.3.
1890.	1	Mr. Bowditch.	55.0.
	2	Mr. Lincoln.	53.5.
	3	Mr. Atkinson.	51.0.
1891.	1	Mr. Stanwood.	57.5.
	2	Mr. Lincoln.	54.3.
	3	Mr. Atkinson.	53.3.
1892.	1	Mr. Lincoln.	55.2.
	2	Mr. Atkinson.	52.8.
	3	Mr. Codman.	52.4.
1893.	1	Mr. Codman.	55.1.
	2	Mr. Stanwood.	54.2.
	3	Mr. Lincoln.	53.7.

YEAR.	RANK.	NAME.	PERCENTAGE.
1894.	1	Mr. Stanwood.	52.7.
	2	Mr. Williams.	51.3.
	3	Mr. Mills.	51.0.
1895.	1	Mr. Codman.	60.1.
	2	Mr. Poor.	52.0.
	3	Mr. Bowditch.	51.4.
1896.	1	Mr. Lincoln.	53.1.
	2	Mr. Bennett.	51.9.
	3	Dr. Francis.	51.4.
1897.	1	Mr. Stanwood.	54.7.
	2	Mr. Bowditch.	52.3.
	3	Mr. Atkinson.	51.3.
1898.	1	Mr. Poor.	54.6.
	2	Mr. Williams.	54.4.
	3	Mr. Codman.	51.8.
1899.	1	Dr. Francis.	59.3.
	2	Mr. Poor.	55.5.
	3	Mr. Stanwood.	54.3.
1900.	1	Mr. Stanwood.	51.9.
	2	Mr. Poor.	51.6.
	3	Mr. Lincoln.	50.9.
1901.	1	Mr. Poor.	58.3.
	2	Mr. Stanwood.	55.6.
	3	Mr. Williams.	50.9.

YEAR.	RANK.	NAME.	PERCENTAGE.
1902.	1	Mr. Lincoln.	56.5.
	2	Mr. Stanwood.	55.1.
	3	Mr. Poor.	51.3.
1903.	1	Mr. Lincoln.	55.2.
	2	Mr. Stanwood.	53.4.
	3	Dr. Francis.	50.7.
1904.	1	Mr. Lincoln.	53.1.
	2	Mr. Stanwood.	52.4.
	3	Mr. Williams.	51.7.
1905.	1	Mr. Lincoln.	54.5.
	2	Mr. Albers.	52.9.
	3	Mr. W. S. Cutler.	52.2.
1906.	1	Mr. Albers.	55.4.
	2	Mr. Lincoln.	52.6.
	3	Mr. W. S. Cutler.	52.3.
1907.	1	Mr. W. S. Cutler.	58.5.
	2	Mr. Albers.	53.9.
	3	Mr. Stanwood.	51.4.















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